

Greg Edds, Chairman
Jim Greene, Vice- Chairman
Mike Caskey
Judy Klusman
Craig Pierce



Aaron Church, County Manager
Carolyn Barger, Clerk to the Board
John W. Dees, II, County Attorney

Rowan County Board of Commissioners

130 West Innes Street • Salisbury, NC 28144
Telephone 704-216-8180 • Fax 704-216-8195

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS August 3, 2020 – 3:00 PM

**PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC
THE MEETING WAS HELD BY REMOTE PARTICIPATION FOR THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS, STAFF AND THE PUBLIC**

.....
Commissioners Participating:

Greg Edds, Chairman
Jim Greene, Vice-Chairman
Mike Caskey, Member
Craig Pierce, Member

Absent: Judy Klusman, Member

County Manager Aaron Church, Clerk to the Board Carolyn Barger, County Attorney Jay Dees, Assistant County Manager/CIO Randy Cress and Assistant County Manager/Finance Director Leslie Heidrick were also participating.

Chairman Edds convened the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Chaplain Michael Taylor provided the Invocation.

Chairman Edds led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSIDER ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Chairman Edds added the following items:

- Closed Session to discuss a real property purchase for an economic development matter and for attorney-client privileged communication regarding pending or threatened litigation (added as agenda item #7a).
- Memorandum from Human Resources regarding a request for temporary Health Department positions (added to the Consent Agenda as item Y)
- Chairman Edds said the County Manager, Aaron Church, had provided the Board with two (2) attachments for agenda item #4 to replace the current documents in the agenda packet.
- Resolution Supporting the North Carolina Transportation Museum Request to Re-open Under Limited Access Guidelines (added as item #3a)

- Axon Contract for Sheriff's Department (added to the Consent Agenda as item Z)

CONSIDER DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

There were no deletions from the agenda.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to approve the agenda as amended passed unanimously (4-0).

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2020, July 21, 2020 and July 24, 2020 Commission Meetings passed unanimously (4-0).

1. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Greene moved approval of the Consent Agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously (4-0).

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Tax Refunds for Approval
- B. Post Public Hearing - Ratify FY '21 Federal Urbanized Area Formula Grants (5307)
- C. Ratify Board of Social Services Term for Commissioner Klusman
- D. Award Sidearm to Retiring Sgt. Suad Jakupovic
- E. Award Sidearm to Retiring Master Deputy Lana Sterling
- F. Request Investigation By Wildlife Resources Commission To Determine Whether Statutory Authority May Exist for Establishment of a No Wake Zone
- G. Purchase Requisition for Northwoods Renewal
- H. Engineering Services for HVAC System - S.E. Collins Engineers
- I. Golder Associates - Landfill Consulting Services
- J. HDR Engineering Agreement - Landfill Engineering and Consulting Services 2021
- K. HDR Engineering Task Order #2020-01
- L. Purchase of Fifteen (15) Vehicles
- M. Purchase of Ammunition for Sheriff's Office
- N. Approval of Purchase Requisition for ZOOM Video Communications
- O. Acceptance of Bid for Landfill Gas System Expansion
- P. Request to Apply for FY2020 Justice Assistance Grant
- Q. Declare County-Owned Property Off Dunn's Mount Road As Surplus and Instruct Clerk to Advertise for Upset Bids
- R. Request to Establish Rowan Transit Dispatcher and Driver Positions
- S. Signing Bonus for Environmental Health Specialist Positions
- T. United Way COVID Relief Grant
- U. Declaration of Surplus Equipment

- V. RCCC Bonds - Declaration of Intent to Reimburse Expenditures
- W. Refunds for the West End Plaza Event Center Rental Contract
- X. Hangar Lease for Heli-1 at Mid-Carolina Regional Airport
- Y. Request for Temporary Health Department Positions (addition)
- Z. AXON Contract for Sheriff's Department (addition)

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairman Edds opened the Public Comment Period to entertain comments from any citizens who had either called in or submitted an email request to address the Board via electronic means. With no one wishing to provide comments, Chairman Edds closed the Public Comment Period.

3. PUBLIC HEARING AND SUMMARY PRESENTATION – EDC ‘PROJECT SUN’

Scott Shelton, Vice President of the Economic Development Commission (EDC), provided the executive summary for the potential expansion of Project Sun (Project). The Project would represent approximately \$45 million of new investment in Rowan County through improvements to the Company's existing facility and placement of new equipment. The proposed Project would also create 56 new jobs by the end of 2022. Approximately 40 of these new jobs would be production operators. Other proposed job categories included maintenance technicians, supervisors and support staff.

Mr. Shelton reported two (2) other states, Ohio and Louisiana, were under consideration for the Project.

During the five (5) incentivized years of the Level 1 Grant, Mr. Shelton estimated the County would collect \$1,226,238 in revenue and provide incentive grants totaling \$919,678. The County would retain \$306,560 of revenue during the incentive term. Modeled with a 10-year horizon, the County would stand to collect an estimated \$2,705,613, disburse a \$919,678 grant and retain an estimated \$1,785,935 of new revenue.

The Company was requesting a Level 1 Grant under the County's Investment Grant Program. Mr. Shelton highlighted the revenue impact the potential Project would have in the County. Mr. Shelton also reviewed the potential for other assistance, which included a Building Reuse Grant through the State of North Carolina and a One NC Grant from the State. The required local matches for these grants could be satisfied through the County's Level 1 Grant. If the State were to recommend a Building Reuse Grant for the Project, the County would have to apply for the grant on behalf of the Company. The EDC recommended hiring a professional grant administrator for the Project at a cost not to exceed \$25,000. Mr. Shelton noted the Board would need to authorize the submission of a One NC Grant application to the State and authorize the Chairman, County Manager and staff to execute the grant documents. The grant required a 50% local match of \$50,000 and by awarding a Level 1 tax incentive grant, the County would satisfy the local match requirement.

In response to questions from the Commissioners, Mr. Shelton clarified the average salary was approximately \$44,000 plus benefits and that 56 new jobs would be created over the next three (3) years.

It was anticipated a decision for the Project would be made around mid-October.

Chairman Edds confirmed with County Attorney Jay Dees that approval of the request was subject to the 24-hour period following the public hearing. The first action was to approve the grant agreement and the second action was to approve the authorizing Resolution.

Chairman Edds opened the public hearing to entertain comments from any citizens who had called in or submitted comments electronically regarding Project Sun. With no one wishing to address the Board, Chairman Edds closed the public hearing and announced that citizens would have an additional 24 hours to call or email the office regarding Project Sun.

Commissioner Pierce moved to approve the incentive grant as presented by the EDC. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and passed unanimously (4-0).

Commissioner Pierce moved to approve the authorizing resolution followed by a second from Commissioner Caskey. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

3A. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NORTH CAROLINA TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM REQUEST TO RE-OPEN UNDER LIMITED GUIDELINES

Chairman Edds said the North Carolina Transportation Museum (Museum) had reached out to the Board of Commissioners asking for help during the COVID-19 Pandemic in order to be able to reopen its operations under limited guidelines. Chairman Edds turned the floor over to County Attorney Jay Dees to provide additional details regarding the request.

County Attorney Jay Dees reported that Roy Johnson, President of the Museum Foundation, had sent a package of information on July 1, 2020 to Governor Roy Cooper and also to Dr. Mandy Cohen, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), requesting permission to open the Museum on a limited basis for exhibits. Mr. Dees said the buildings had been closed since March 17, 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Mr. Dees said the DHHS response had been the Museum was considered an amusement park and could not open, including the roundhouse.

Mr. Dees mentioned that other train operations such as Tweetsie Railroad and the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad were operating under limited conditions.

According to Mr. Dees, the Museum was seeking assistance from the Board of Commissioners and the County's legislative delegation to be able to open up in a limited capacity. Mr. Dees discussed the economic impact of the Museum and said their

revenues were depleted and the Museum was now using capital reserves to maintain the buildings and equipment.

In closing, Mr. Dees said the Museum was asking the Commissioners to consider approval of the proposed Resolution and also any assistance the Commissioners could provide with the State.

Chairman Edds read the Resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Transportation Museum ("Museum") is a 60-acre historic site located in the Town of Spencer in Rowan County and operates under the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the Museum closed on March 17, 2020 and its buildings have remained closed pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 117 and the state's subsequent NC Department of Health and Human Resources ("DHHS") determination that the Museum is considered to be an "amusement park"; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Cultural Resources website, since June 2, 2020, nearly all of the State's historic sites have re-opened to the public under appropriate cleaning guidelines and with limited access; and

WHEREAS, the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad is fully operational with train rides up to 5 hours long with food service while the Museum's "heritage railroad" 20-minute train ride as well as its two open air primary buildings of more than 200,000 square feet with ceiling heights of up to 65 feet remain closed to the public; and

WHEREAS, The Museum's Foundation has invested more than \$15,000,000.00 of private investment since 1996 in the renovations of its Roundhouse, Back Shop and other buildings, and currently maintains over \$4,000,000.00 of historic trains, planes and automobiles; and

WHEREAS, The Museum anticipates extending the closure period will impact its revenues by up to 90% while the Museum still spends existing capital improvement funds to maintain the grounds, valuable inventory and historic buildings without emergency state funds or patron revenue; and

WHEREAS, Rowan County, the Town of Spencer and all local municipalities and business owners will lose an expected \$22,000,000.00 of economic impact that the Museum creates from its more than 110,000 visitors annually.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rowan County Board of Commissioners hereby expresses its full support for re-opening the North Carolina Transportation Museum according to the guidelines for cleaning, social distancing, and appropriate PPE use by its employees proposed by the Museum in its letter request to the Governor; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Rowan County Board of Commissioners will submit this Resolution to the State and work with its local delegates in an effort to achieve the goals herein.

Chairman Edds moved approval of the Resolution followed by a second from Commissioner Pierce.

Commissioner Caskey questioned the reasoning for the State's description of the Museum as an amusement park. Mr. Dees responded that he assumed the description was due to events held by the Museum such as Thomas the Train and The Polar Express where train rides actually took place. Mr. Dees said the Museum was requesting permission to open the 20-minute Heritage Railroad, which took place on site. Mr. Dees said all state historic sites were limited and buildings were closed; however, Tweetsie and the Great Smoky Mountain Railroads were not State historic sites. Mr. Dees said these railroads were allowed to be open. Mr. Dees questioned the

standard being used to keep the State's component for historic sites closed as amusement parks when there were amusement parks that were open. Mr. Dees said he understood the reason the roundtable was shut down was because DHHS considered the roundtable to be an amusement. The roundtable was no longer allowed to operate because people were being charged a ticket price and getting on a train.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion on the floor to approve the Resolution passed unanimously (4-0).

4. APPROVAL OF REVISED CARES ACT FUNDING PLAN

County Manager Aaron Church highlighted the most recent Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) changes and the allocations to the County and its municipalities. (Note: See ***Additions to the Agenda*** regarding a request from the County Manager to replace the documents in the agenda packet with updated documents. The revised documents are hereto attached to these minutes for the record).

Using a power point, Mr. Church discussed the breakdown in fees. Mr. Church reported that Congress and the Senate were currently working on new legislation that could affect the Plan, including a possible extension for a completion date beyond December 30, 2020.

Mr. Church noted the last page in the handout contained a line item for \$112,500 for Community Paramedics. Mr. Church said the next item on the current meeting agenda would ask the Commissioners to approve four (4) new COVID-19 Community Paramedic (CCP) positions. Based on the information in the agenda packet, it would be the job of the CCP to check on and provide support for patients who have COVID. Mr. Church said the program was completely voluntary and if citizens tested positive for COVID, they would be assigned a paramedic(s) who would go to the patient's house to provide basic services (blood pressure, oxygen levels, general welfare checks, etc.). THE CCP could also assist with the purchase of food or medications. Mr. Church said the pay was only through the end of December and the matter could be revisited at a later date.

Overall, the County's portion of the CRF was \$3,995,578 and \$1,363,877 to Rowan County's ten (10) municipalities.

Commissioner Caskey questioned the \$200,000 telework expansion and Randy Cress, Assistant County Manager/Chief Information Officer, discussed the items to be covered under this line item. Mr. Cress highlighted some of the efforts being made to assist employees with teleworking. Mr. Church also added that with schools starting back, the County would do all it could to facilitate a working environment for employees that would be somewhat virtual.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Greene pertaining to the line item for broadband, Mr. Church said if broadband could not be implemented by December 30,

2020, the line item would most likely be disqualified as an expense, unless there was an extension approved.

Commissioner Pierce moved to approve the revised CARES Act funding plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and passed unanimously (4-0).

5. APPROVAL OF FOUR (4) NEW POSITIONS FOR THE COVID-19 COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC PROGRAM

County Manager Aaron Church explained that he had covered the details for this topic while discussing agenda item #4.

Chairman Edds added that he and Mr. Church had spent time with leadership at Novant and the VA Medical Center and the program had been designed with recommendations from these medical organizations in conjunction with the County.

Commissioner Pierce moved to approve the four (4) new positions for the COVID-19 Community Paramedic Program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Caskey and passed unanimously (4-0).

6. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Finance Director Leslie Heidrick presented the following budget amendments for the Board's consideration:

- Health Department – Disperse awarded funds from the Rural Health Grant - \$66,000
- Health Department – Disperse awarded funds per AA - \$12,384
- Finance – Budget FY 21 JCPC Level II funding awarded to the County - \$35,000
- Finance – Budget NC Tier II grant funds awarded to the County for Citizen Information Cards (\$1,000) and for Hazmat Conference (\$4,000)
- Rowan Transit – Increase budget for newly awarded FY 21 Federal Section 5310 Elderly and Disabled – Rural State Grant. Increase to budget for remaining Section 5310-Elderly and Disabled Urban Transportation Grant Federal Fiscal Year 2018 remaining funds eligible for reimbursement - \$126,637
- Finance – To appropriate fund balance and expenditures for several fiscal year 2020 General Fund encumbrances - \$722,137

Commissioner Pierce moved approval of the budget amendments as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Caskey and passed unanimously (4-0).

7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS

TOWN OF FAITH ZONING – ETJ and CITY OF KANNAPOLIS PLANNING - ETJ

- Randy Riddle applied for reappointment as an ETJ member for the Town of Faith's Zoning Board. The term was for three (3) years and would expire on July 31, 2023.

- The City of Kannapolis recommended the reappointment of Paula Severt as an ETJ member to City's Planning Board. The term would expire December 31, 2022.

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to reappoint Mr. Riddle and Ms. Severt passed unanimously.

ADDITION

7a. CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Edds moved at 4:00 p.m. for the Board to enter Closed Session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss a real property purchase for an economic development matter; and North Carolina General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(3) for attorney-client privileged communication regarding pending or threatened litigation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously (4-0).

The Board returned to Open Session at 4:26 p.m. No action was taken.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Caskey moved to adjourn at 4:27 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carolyn Barger, MMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board

TO: Rowan Board of Commissioners
FROM: Aaron Church, County Manager
DATE: July 31, 2020
SUBJECT: Changes to documents currently on the August 3, 2020 Agenda

The attached documents were approved by the BOC to replace the attachments in the original agenda packet on Aug. 3, 2020

Agenda Item #4
C. Barger

The purpose of this Memorandum is to request that the Board of Commissioners replace the two attachments on the August 3, 2020 agenda under item 4. *Approval of Revised CARES Act Funding Plan.*

Attachment 1 should replace the **“CRF Funding”** document and *Attachment 2* should replace the **“Proposed County Spending Plan”** document.

Below is a brief explanation of the revised documents.

“CRF Funding”

This document identifies the Rowan County CRF funding allocated to the municipalities based on prior board action and identifies the estimated architectural funds for municipalities

Below is an excerpt from the draft minutes for the County Commissioners Meeting on July 21, 2020.

“Chairman Edds clarified the Board's intentions by stating the following: The County had a total budgeted amount of \$97,180 (for architectural services). The Board wanted Mr. Church and Assistant County Manager/Finance Director Leslie Heidrick to determine how much of the figure was for the County and how much was municipal. For example, purposes only, Chairman Edds stated if \$40,000 was for the County, there would be \$57,180 left to go towards the municipalities to be distributed to the municipalities based on population. Chairman Edds put his statements in the form of a motion followed by a second from Commissioner Pierce. The motion passed unanimously.”

Pete Bogle estimated 60 hours for municipal interviews and 112 hours for county buildings (Directors and Courthouse interviews) on the GMP & Hourly Estimating worksheet dated July 6, 2020. However, he did not estimate for design or construction specific to municipal or county buildings. We used this information to provide our best estimate in response to the Board action on July 21, 2020. We added 60 hours to 112 hours which totals 172 hours and divided 60 by 172 which equals approximately 35%. Our best guess based on these estimates is that 35% of the original contract relates to municipalities and 65% relates to county owned buildings.

The total COVID-19 Relief Fund Contract for architectural services is hourly with a guaranteed maximum fee of \$97,180. Applying the above methodology to this distribution of architectural services the County would receive \$63,167. This leaves \$34,013 dollars that can be utilized by the municipalities. Additional information showing the distribution for each municipality is provided in *Attachment 1*.

“Proposed County Spending Plan”

The revised “Proposed County Spending Plan” is provided in *Attachment 2*. This revised plan increases the allocation for construction and reduces other allocations. Pete Bogle will be at the August 3, 2020 meeting to present the budget estimates and answer any questions that the Board may have.

Attachment 1

ROWAN COUNTY
CRF FUNDING ALLOCATED TO ROWAN COUNTY #2
As of August 3, 2020

BOC APPROVED ALLOCATIONS

Municipalities	% of Municipal Population	Total Dollars Allocated to Rowan County	Allocation to Municipalities				
			\$50,000 Each	Per Capita	Subtotal	Bogle Architect Fees	Total Dollars Allocated to Municipalities
		\$ 3,955,578					
Salisbury	54.21%	-	\$ 50,000	\$ 449,868	\$ 499,868	\$ 18,438	\$ 518,306
Kannapolis	15.58%	-	50,000	129,323	179,323	5,300	184,623
China Grove	6.73%	-	50,000	55,830	105,830	2,288	108,118
Spencer	5.11%	-	50,000	42,387	92,387	1,737	94,124
Landis	4.99%	-	50,000	41,370	91,370	1,696	93,065
Granite Quarry	4.90%	-	50,000	40,641	90,641	1,666	92,307
Rockwell	3.41%	-	50,000	28,319	78,319	1,161	79,479
East Spencer	2.37%	-	50,000	19,695	69,695	807	70,503
Cleveland	1.40%	-	50,000	11,619	61,619	476	62,095
Faith	1.30%	-	50,000	10,812	60,812	443	61,255
Total Population	100.00%	\$ 3,955,578	\$ 500,000	\$ 829,864	\$ 1,329,864	\$ 34,013	\$ 1,363,877

Total CRF Funding \$ 5,319,455

Attachment 2

PROPOSED REVISED ROWAN COUNTY CFR PLAN
As of August 3, 2020

Department / Item	COUNTY EXPENSE
General Government	
Architect Fees	\$ 63,167
General Construction for County Departments	1,035,000
General Construction for Courthouse Facilities (Courtrooms, Clerk of Court, Judges, Courtrooms, District Attorney, Probation, Sheriff and Common Areas)	465,000
Grant Administration Position	42,000
ESTIMATED TOTAL	1,605,167
General Human Resources	
Direct COVID-19 Employee Pay Expenses	550,000
COUNTY - COVID-19 Related FMLA / SICK Pay Expenses	150,000
ESTIMATED TOTAL	700,000
DSS	
DSS Check In system - Software and Hardware Kiosks	6,000
Acrylic Sneeze Guards (6) \$400 each	2,400
Splash Guards (200)	2,200
Housing and food for adult wards who become homeless	3,000
ESTIMATED TOTAL	13,600

PROPOSED REVISED ROWAN COUNTY CFR PLAN
As of August 3, 2020

Department / Item	COUNTY EXPENSE
Heath Department	
Consultant/Contract Services	26,400
COVID-19 Office Supplies	6,000
Equipment	10,000
Updax Telehealth service	3,200
Expedite upgrades to MacBook / Wireless Coverage	39,000
Exergen Temporal Scanner Model TAT-5000 oral equivalent calibration (10)	4,650
Thermo Scientific TSX5005GA High-Performance Biomedical Lab Refrigerator, 51 CU FT, Glass	12,765
Thermo Scientific™ TSX3030FD High-Performance -30°C Lab Freezer, 30 Cu Ft, Auto Defrost, 208/230V Thermo Scientific™ TSX	11,171
COVID-19 Testing contract with Mako	212,500
Contract with School Nurses to assist with Investigations and contact tracing	21,600
Additional Staffing - Nurses, Interpreters, Outreach Coordinator, Support Staff	435,933
ESTIMATED TOTAL	783,219
Information Technology	
Telework Expansion	200,000
Paperwork Reduction	10,070
Public Awareness	6,900
Broadband	200,000
Zoom rooms	50,000
ESTIMATED TOTAL	466,970

PROPOSED REVISED ROWAN COUNTY CFR PLAN
As of August 3, 2020

Department / Item	COUNTY EXPENSE
Emergency Services	
Operative IQ Inventory - Software	1,400
Operative IQ Inventory - Hardware	4,500
Homeless	5,000
Food Storage Unit	13,222
PPE for County Departments, Municipalities and	250,000
Courthouse Personnel	
Community Paramedics	112,500
ESTIMATED TOTAL	386,622
ESTIMATED GRAND TOTAL	3,955,578